



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SHERIFF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION  
MEETING HELD ONLINE AT THE LINK BELOW:**

**<https://bit.ly/34ewl9l>**

**<http://coc.lacounty.gov>**



**Thursday, September 17, 2020**

Attachment: [Video](#)

Present: Chair Lael Rubin, Vice-Chair Hernan Vera, Robert Bonner, Patti Giggans, James P. Harris, Priscilla Ocen, Xavier Thompson, Casimiro Tolentino and Executive Director Brian K. Williams.

Absent: Sean Kennedy

**1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

- Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lael Rubin at 9:03 am. Chair Rubin welcomed and introduced Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas acknowledged the two deputies who were shot by an unknown assailant while on duty. He went on to thank all Los Angeles Sheriff deputies for the difficult service that they provide. Supervisor Ridley-Thomas reiterated the mission of the Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) and the need to keep the public informed by maximizing transparency. He noted that the COC serves as a liaison for the community. Supervisor Ridley-Thomas praised the Commission on the work they have done and their efforts to reform law enforcement elements. He encouraged the Commission to continue their work no matter what.

Following Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' comments, Chair Rubin welcomed everyone and announced October 15, 2020 as the next COC meeting date. She also announced instead of a second meeting, the Ad Hoc Committees will meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Chair Rubin expressed the importance of hearing from the public and shared alternative ways for the public to submit comments. She then requested staff member Ingrid Williams to take roll, and Commissioner Casimiro Tolentino to lead the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the Pledge, Chair Rubin provided an overview of the virtual meeting guidelines.

- Approval of August 20, 2020 meeting minutes

On a motion by Commissioner Robert Bonner, seconded by Commissioner Patti Giggans there being no objection, the August 20, 2020 meeting minutes were

approved.

**[SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS](#)**

**2. UPDATE, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**2a. Resolution Condemning Violence**

Chair Rubin expressed concern over the recent shooting of two sheriff deputies that took place on September 12, 2020. She noted the COC condemns any acts of violence towards Sheriff deputies and all members of the community. Following Chair Rubin's comments, the floor was opened for Commissioner comments regarding the adoption of the Resolution Condemning Violence.

Commissioner Bonner voiced concern for the deputies who were shot by an unknown assailant. He also expressed concern over the language in the Resolution and proposed several amendments. Commissioner Bonner stated the focus of the Resolution should be on the attacks against Sheriff deputies only.

Following Commissioner comments, Chair Rubin moved to public comment.

There were six members of the public who addressed the Commission.

Commissioner Priscilla Ocen suggested forming a Resolution Ad Hoc Committee to allow time for in-depth discussion and review of future resolutions.

Chair Rubin agreed with Commissioner Ocen's suggestion of developing an ad hoc committee and appointed Commissioners Ocen, Bonner, Giggans and Thompson as members of the newly formed Resolution Ad Hoc Committee.

Chair Rubin called for a roll call vote on the amendments to the resolution made by Commissioner Bonner. On a 7-1 vote, the proposed amendment to limit the resolution strictly to the deputies and law enforcement was defeated.

Chair Rubin called for a vote on the Resolution Condemning Violence with friendly amendments. On a motion by Commissioner Ocen, seconded by Vice-Chair Vera the motion passed with a 7 – 1 vote in favor of the resolution.

Following the vote, Chair Rubin moved to item 2b.

***SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:*** **[Proposed Resolution](#)**  
**[Final Resolution](#)**

**2b. Discussion and update on the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) enforcement activities at public protests**

Chair Rubin shared with the Commission that a member of the media was arrested during a recent protest. She noted that the Sheriff's Department alleges

the journalist failed to provide her credentials and was arrested for obstructing justice. Chair Rubin called on County Counsel to report back to the Commission in 30 days on proper procedures law enforcement can utilize during public protests.

Inspector General Max Huntsman reported that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) is currently investigating the actions of the Sheriff's Department to determine if the arrest of the news reporter was lawful. He also noted that the OIG has requested cooperation from the Sheriff's Department regarding the incident but has been unsuccessful in obtaining information.

Following Mr. Huntsman's comments, Chair Rubin opened the floor for Commissioner questions and comments.

Commissioner Ocen expressed concern about community members who attended the protest and their first amendment rights to self-expression. She questioned whether the OIG would explore complaints from the public.

Commissioner Giggans suggested the Resolution Committee develop a Resolution that condemns constitutional violations.

Chair Rubin agreed with Commissioner Giggans' suggestion and advised the ad hoc committee meet and develop a resolution that condemns constitutional violations.

Following Commissioner comments, Chair Rubin moved to public comments.

There were eleven members of the public who addressed the Commission.

Chair Rubin called for a vote to request County Counsel develop a memorandum outlining proper protocol to be used by LASD during public demonstrations and report back to the Commission at the October COC meeting. The vote ended with unanimous approval.

Vice-Chair Vera expressed concern over possible conflicts with representation from County Counsel.

Chair Rubin deferred Vice-Chair Vera's concern on the issue until after the break.

Following item 2b, Chair Rubin called for a 15-minute recess.

The meeting recessed at 11:01 am.

Open session reconvened at 11:16 am.

Present were Chair Lael Rubin, Vice-Chair Hernan Vera, Robert Bonner, Patti Giggans, James P. Harris, Priscilla Ocen, Xavier Thompson, Casimiro Tolentino and Executive Director Brian K. Williams.

**Following the 15-minute recess, Chair Rubin moved to item 2c.**

- 2c.** Resolution in Support of the Independent Investigation of Deaths that Occur as a Result of the Use of Force by the LASD

**Chair Rubin suggested the newly created Resolution Ad Hoc Committee review the proposed Resolution on Independent Investigation of Deaths that occur as a result of Use of Force and report back to the Commission at the next meeting. She noted concerns made by the community and the Commission regarding the Sheriff's department investigating themselves. Chair Rubin tasked the Resolution Ad Hoc Committee to come up with a protocol for developing resolutions.**

**Following Chair Rubin's comments, the floor was opened for Commissioner questions and comments.**

**Following Commissioner comments, Chair Rubin opened the floor for public comment.**

**There were seven members of the public who commented on this item.**

**Following public comment, Chair Rubin moved to item 2d.**

*Attachments:* [\*\*SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS\*\*](#)

- 2d.** Discussion and update regarding the LASD efforts to address COVID-19 issues within the jails: Ad Hoc Committee Report

**Chair Rubin stated COVID-19 in the jails has been on the agenda numerous times, and the draft report should not be considered final because the committee will continue to have input on it. Chair Rubin noted that the inmate population is increasing again. She also noted that the design of the facility makes protecting the inmates problematic. Chair Rubin informed the Commission that there is no uniform protocol across the board. Following her comments, Chair Rubin opened the floor for Commissioner comments.**

**Commissioner Ocen thanked COC staff member Daniel Delgadillo for his assistance. She noted that the jail population needs to be reduced and that individuals with mental health issues should be identified and released. Commissioner Ocen expressed concern over the lack of collaboration between Correction Health Services (CHS), Public Health (DPH) and LASD. She recommended inmates be tested before being released to reduce possible transmission of COVID-19 to family members.**

**Commissioner Giggans recommended contacting DPH and inquiring about including jail stats into their weekly report.**

Commissioner Harris suggested increasing efforts to limit inmate movement in and out of custody and to increase virtual platforms with confidential communication to reduce the jail population as much as possible.

Following Commissioner comments, Chair Rubin opened the floor for public comment.

There were three members of the public who commented on this item.

On a motion of Commissioner Ocen, seconded by Vice-Chair Vera, Chair Rubin called for a vote to approve the COVID-19 Ad Hoc report. The motion passed with a 7-1 vote.

Following the vote, Chair Rubin moved to on to agenda item 3 Commission updates.

*Attachments:* [SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS](#)

### **3. COMMISSION UPDATES**

- Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Brian Williams reported that a new Staff Analyst was hired and will start soon. He also informed the Commission that Jennifer Osborn, who was on loan to the County's Joint Information Center for COVID-19 response, will be returning to the office next month.

Chair Rubin called on Alexandra Zuiderweg of County Counsel to provide her view on independent counsel.

County Counsel representative Ms. Zuiderweg stated that County Counsel exclusively represents the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and its' Commissions, and she noted that any circumstance that requires out outside counsel would never be present.

Chair Rubin disagreed with Ms. Zuiderweg and requested she provide a detailed memorandum outlining the position of County Counsel with regards to COC obtaining outside counsel on matters facing the COC.

Chair Rubin noted the detailed memorandum should be forwarded to the Executive Director before the next meeting who will then disseminate it to members of the Commission. Chair Rubin took a vote for the Commission to request a memo from County Counsel outlining their position on independent counsel for the COC, and the vote was approved unanimously.

- Inspector General's Report

**Inspector General Huntsman shared with the Commission that little progress has been made regarding the subpoenas.**

- **Commissioner Comments/Ad Hoc Committee Update**

**Commissioner Ocen reported the Measure R Ad Hoc Committee is meeting every other week. She reported subject matter experts are providing information to assist with developing a comprehensive report on critical issues of justice reinvestment.**

**Commissioner Bonner shared with Commission that he is calling for the resignation of Sheriff Alex Villanueva. He provided the Commission with several actions of the Sheriff that led to his decision. Commission Bonner stated that LASD and the community deserve better. He stated for the record that this is solely his decision, and he is not speaking on behalf of the Commission or any ad hoc committee.**

**Commissioner Ocen suggested developing a resolution of no confidence in the Sheriff.**

**Chair Rubin referred the issue to the newly formed Resolution Ad Hoc Committee to draft a resolution calling for the Sheriff to resign or a vote of a no-confidence and present to the full commission at the next meeting. Following Commissioner comments, Chair Rubin moved to public Comment.**

- **Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Update**

**There were no representatives from LASD present to provide any updates.**

**No members of the public addressed the Commission on Item 3.**

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**There were 17 members of the public who addressed the Commission.**

#### **5. MISCELLANEOUS**

- **Adjournment**

**Chair Rubin adjourned the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission meeting at 1:16 p.m.**